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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

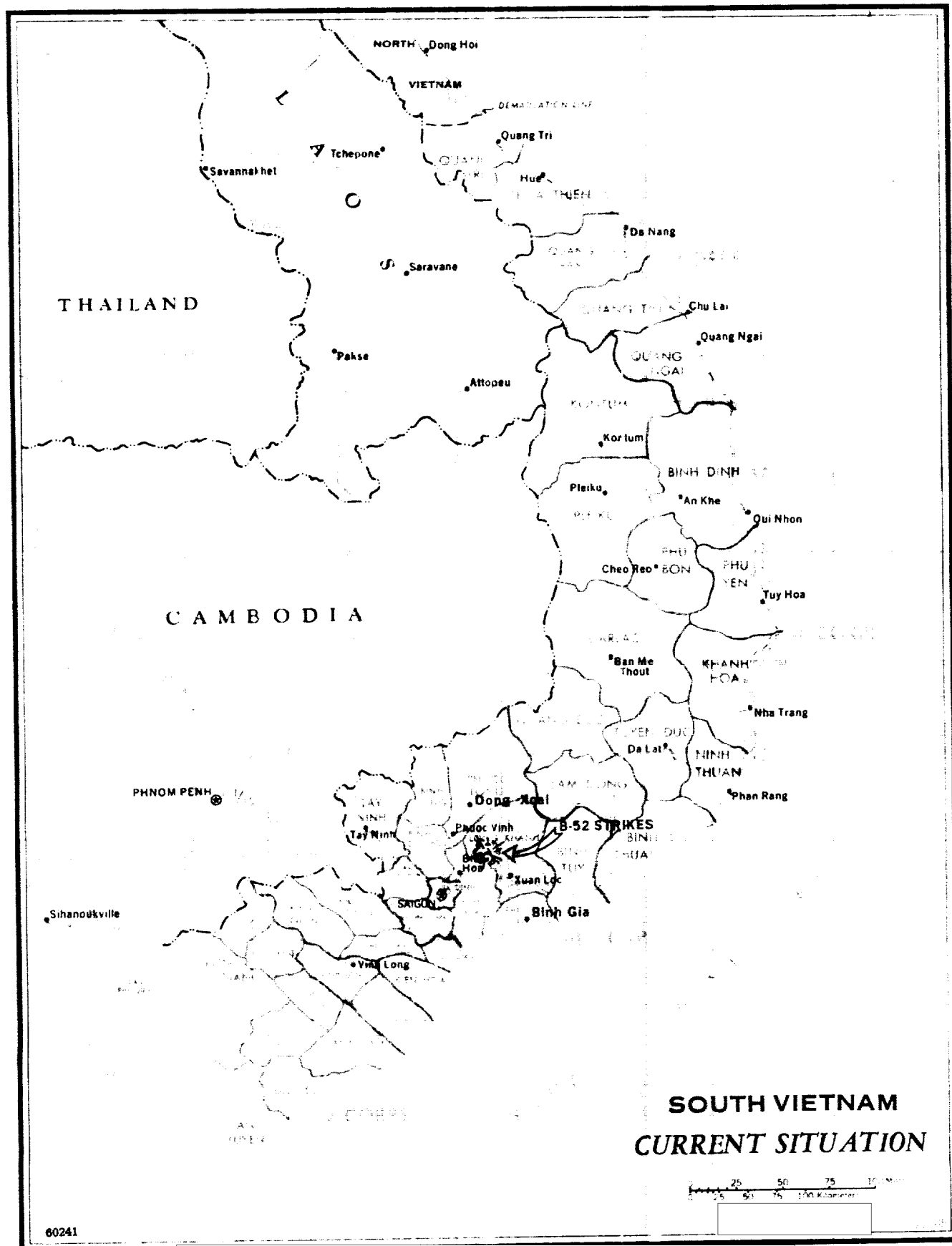
US Air Strikes: US naval aircraft on 22 December attacked and put out of operation the Uong Bi Thermal Power Plant in the first strike conducted under favorable weather conditions. Preliminary readout of post-strike photography discloses severe damage to the boilerhouse, probable hits on the generator hall and complete destruction of the coal-handling building.

Three US aircraft were lost in connection with the raid--two to ground fire during the attack and a third shot down by a SAM while flying a post-strike photo mission. Earlier in the day a US naval aircraft was downed by a SAM while attacking the Haiphong Highway bridge. US air losses now total 187, of which 175 were due to hostile action. Of these, 11 aircraft were downed by SAMs.

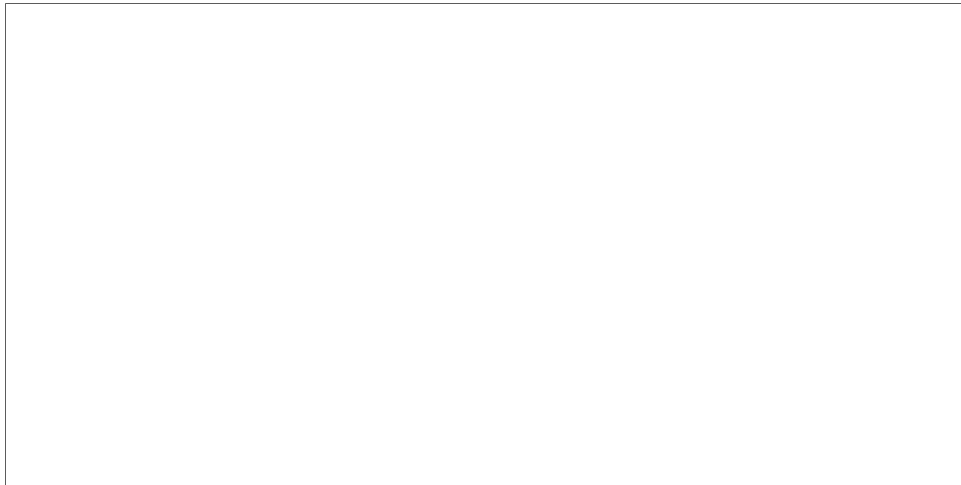
On 22 December US aircraft attacked a SAM site near Phu Tho, northwest of Hanoi. The attacking aircraft expended over 100 rockets on the site, but smoke and dust precluded assessment of the damage.

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The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Little significant ground activity was reported in South Vietnam yesterday. For the third consecutive day, B-52



Stratofortresses bombed the suspected location of a
Viet Cong regional military headquarters in Long
Khanh Province.



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*Dominican Republic: Santo Domingo remained relatively calm yesterday, although sporadic instances of gunfire and sabotage occurred.

Most employees were at their jobs as left wing unions have suspended, if only temporarily, the call for a general strike to oust military leaders. Pro-rebel politicians are evidently awaiting Garcia Godoy's reaction to the report of the commission investigating Sunday's incident at Santiago--originally slated to be delivered to the president today.

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[Garcia Godoy privately has reiterated his feeling that both the regular military and the rebels were at fault in the Santiago fighting. He told Ambassador Bennett he recognizes that the extremes on both right and left are attempting to take advantage of the situation to split the military leadership from the government.]

[The president is hopeful he can head off a general strike. In an apparent attempt to do so, Garcia Godoy said he told former rebel leader Caamano he would resign the presidency if a strike created such chaos that no alternative was left but reliance on the military. Garcia Godoy claimed he made this threat with the hope it would get back to Bosch, who the president feels is attempting to stir up trouble. Garcia Godoy feels that Bosch does not want to take the chance that a military regime might replace the provisional government.]

The military is continuing to press Defense Minister Rivera to take a stronger stand with Garcia Godoy on the issue of Caamano's "army." At a meeting on 21 December almost 400 officers resolved that while military integration is necessary, it cannot take place unless Caamano and Montes Arache, the former rebel defense chief, leave the country. The officers indicated that attempts by rebel military to travel around the countryside in armed groups will be resisted forcefully in the future.

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Rhodesia: [Britain is attempting to dissuade President Kaunda from prematurely instituting drastic economic sanctions against Rhodesia.]

[In a letter to Kaunda, Prime Minister Wilson has warned that neither Britain nor any other country could provide an economic rescue operation for Zambia if sanctions are soon imposed to retaliate against Rhodesia's \$14 per ton surcharge on its coal exports to Zambia. Wilson recognized Zambia's need to take counteraction, but noted that the UK, US, and Canada could not possibly transport coal as well as petroleum into Zambia at this time. He noted that surface routes were not yet adequate to handle this added traffic.]

[Wilson argued that when the world-wide sanctions against Rhodesia begin to bite, further Zambian action could make a decisive contribution to a "quick kill." He expressed hope that "the end of January or not long thereafter" would be a propitious time.]

[Kaunda is threatening to announce that he will stop all copper shipments through Rhodesia unless Rhodesian Prime Minister Smith drops the coal surcharge by noon Friday. Although this move would be less drastic than a coal or full trade boycott which Kaunda previously has threatened, no adequate alternative routes for exporting Zambian copper are available.]

[Such a move would also heighten the possibility of further Rhodesian countermeasures escalating to a cessation of economic relations between Rhodesia and Zambia.]

[In an effort to deal with this latest threat, London is considering an offer to meet the cost to Zambia of the coal surtax, possibly using funds from frozen Rhodesian assets. If Kaunda does not accept this, London might propose that Zambia adopt a selective embargo as preferable to stopping copper shipments.]

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[*Kaunda, in a speech on Wednesday night, called upon the British Government to pronounce the surcharge illegal and stated he expected the "parties concerned" to refuse to pay it. He declared that Zambia would be forced to take countermeasures but did not mention any specific action.]

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Dahomey: Army chief of staff Soglo's takeover yesterday was designed to end the frantic political maneuvering which followed last month's limited military coup.

General Soglo immediately announced the suspension of the constitution and the dissolution of parliament, local government bodies, and all political parties. His new government is expected to have both military and civilian members.

Unless Soglo receives support from at least some of the major political factions, he will have trouble maintaining stability, inasmuch as the army, like Dahomey itself, is badly divided along tribal and regional lines. His most likely challenger would then be Major Alley, who is in actual command of the troops and has fewer political enemies, especially among civilian leftists. On previous occasions, Soglo has not shown much personal fortitude when faced with serious opposition.

Prior to his takeover, Soglo had indicated that, if he seized power, he planned to restore pay cuts imposed last summer on government workers--the largest category of the wage labor force--and to replace the Chinese Communist Embassy with one from Nationalist China. He has not, however, come up with plans for attacking Dahomey's chronic economic problems which underlie the political unrest.

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NOTE

Egypt: President Nasir's Port Said Victory Day speech on 21 December was notable for its focus on domestic problems and freedom from verbal fire-works. This is in marked contrast with last year's speech in which he violently attacked the US and its aid policy, bringing US-Egyptian relations to a nadir. Since US PL-480 food aid to Egypt stopped last June, Nasir has tried to mollify the US with an appearance of greater economic rationality and attention to domestic affairs.

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The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

The Scientific Adviser to the President

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Assistant Secretary of Defense

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Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

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